

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 HELSIN 00603 281259Z
ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T HELSINKI 0603

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EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, UR, FI
SUBJECT: NAC DISCUSSION OF THE SOVIET-FINNISH TREATY

REF: (A) USNATO 1559, (B) 77 HELSINKI 3084, (C) HELSINKI 0123,
(D) 77 MOSCOW 18499

1. WE AGREE THAT AN NAC REVIEW OF SOVIET POLICY TOWARD
THE BALTIC REGION, INCLUDING TOWARD FINLAND, WOULD BE TIMELY
AND USEFUL (REFTEL A). OBVIOUSLY THIS SUBJECT IS HIGHLY
SENSITIVE TO THE FINNS AND SHOULD BE TREATED WITH EXTREME
DISCRETION.

2. OUR LATEST THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT IS SET OUT IN
REFTELS B AND C. WE STAND READY TO SUPPLEMENT THOSE
XESSAGES WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMENT, SHOULD
DEPARTMENT OR USNATO SO REQUEST.

3. IN OUR ANALYSES WE STRESSED OUR PIONION THAT
SOVIET INVOCATION OF THE MILITARY CONSULTATION
PROVISIONS OF THEIR TREATY WITH FINLAND WOULD BE
A HARSH BLOW TO FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY AND WOULD IMPLY THE
FAILURE OF ITS EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THE GOOD WILL AND CONFIDENCE
OF SOVIET LEADERSHIP. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT
SUCH CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE LIKELY TO HAVE SERIOUS

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REPERCUSSIONS ON THE SECURITY PERCEPTIONS OF
OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES. FOR THESE REASONS WE ARE
INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT
LIGHTLY INVODE THE CONSULTATION PROVISIONS OF THE
TREATY. IN THIS CONTEXT WE SOMETIMES WONDER WHETHER
OTHER NORTHERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES EXAGGERATE
THE THREAT THAT THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT CALL FOR

CONSULTATIONS WITH FINLAND IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY
POLICY DECISIONS BASED ON CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO
THEIR OWN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

4. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE.
RIDGWAY

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NNN

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